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LEGISLATURE LIBRARY
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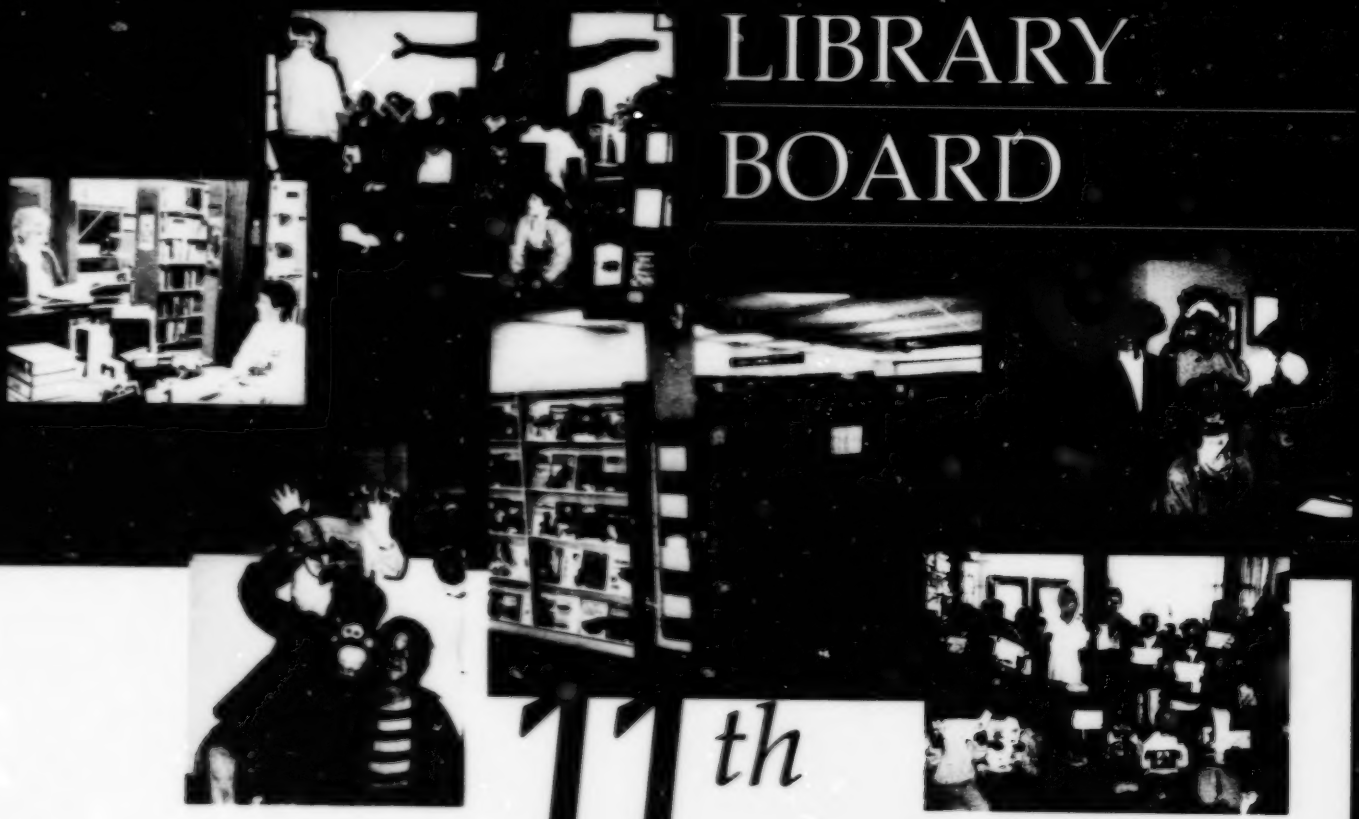
ALBERTA LIBRARY BOARD



11th ANNUAL REPORT

Alberta
CULTURE AND MULTICULTURALISM

1988-1989

ALBERTA LIBRARY BOARD

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Sessional Paper No. 319/89
1 Session, 22 Legislature

Alberta
CULTURE AND MULTICULTURALISM

91-02864/

PUBLISHED BY

Alberta Library Board
Government of Alberta

Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism
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Edmonton, Alberta
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ALBERTA LIBRARY BOARD

April 20, 1989

The Honourable Doug Main
Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism
418 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Mr. Minister

In accordance with the Libraries Act, I am pleased to provide you with the 11th Annual Report of the Alberta Library Board for the year ending March 31, 1989.

This year's Annual Report salutes the countless volunteers who ensure that Alberta's libraries play an important role in the cultural life of their communities. In fact, the development of a plan for volunteer recognition has become a major focus for your Board. We plan to present you with recommendations by June 30.

It has been a pleasure for me to serve two terms on the Alberta Library Board. I will miss the many friends I have made in the library community. I wish you much success in your portfolio and know that you will very quickly come to admire the energy and enthusiasm of Alberta Library Services staff, and trustees and library staff throughout the province.

Respectfully submitted

Bob Maskell
Chairman

RCM:hc

16214 - 114 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5M 2Z5

BOARD MEMBERS

Sue Dutton, Calgary • Patricia Flette, Grande Prairie • Marjorie Haugen, Cowley • Sheilagh Ross, Camrose
Robert Maskell, Edmonton • John Solodzuk, Two Hills • Wanda White, Brooks

What is the Alberta Library Board?

"The library has been created by actual necessities in modern civilization. It is now a necessary unit in the social fabric."

Pierce Butler

The Alberta Library Board, made up of seven private citizens from across Alberta, functions as an advisory board to the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism. The members are appointed for three year terms by the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism to advise him on matters relating to public libraries in Alberta.

The Board's statement of mission is:

"The primary aim of the Alberta Library Board is to advise the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism on matters relating to the expansion, development, co-ordination and encouragement of libraries and library services in Alberta."

"The Alberta Library Board promotes communication among groups in the library community. To support provincial library growth the Board will encourage library leadership and improve awareness of the public library's role in a democratic society."

Now in its eleventh year of operation, the Board derives its authority from the Libraries Act, Chapter L-12.1, 1983 of the Statutes of Alberta. Its mandate includes:

- Advising the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism as set out in Section 6 of the Libraries Act
- Considering matters referred to it by the Minister
- Receiving input from library boards and trustees, library associations, and the Library Services Branch
- Providing mechanisms through which individuals and groups can discuss library development and inform the Board on these matters
- Recommending to the Minister regarding study and research awards
- Initiating research and making recommendations to the Minister on the results
- Co-operating with library groups to encourage development
- Making recommendations on the establishment and dissolution of community libraries

In the following pages, this annual report chronicles the many activities the Board has been directly or indirectly involved in while carrying out its stated mission during 1988/89.

Who is the Alberta Library Board?

"1988/89 Alberta Library Board with Acting Director, Barbara Clubb. From left to right: John Solodzuk (Two Hills), Barbara Clubb, Library Services Branch, Patricia Flette (Grande Prairie, Chairperson for first six months), Wanda White (Brooks), Sue Dutton (Calgary), Bob Maskell (Edmonton, Chairperson for last six months), Marjorie Haugen (Cowley), Sheilagh Ross (Camrose)."

Alberta Library Board members come from seven geographical locations spread across Alberta. As members of this advisory board, they represent public libraries and travel throughout the province to meet with library groups, trustees, librarians, and patrons.

John Solodzuk
TWO HILLS

Robert Maskell
EDMONTON

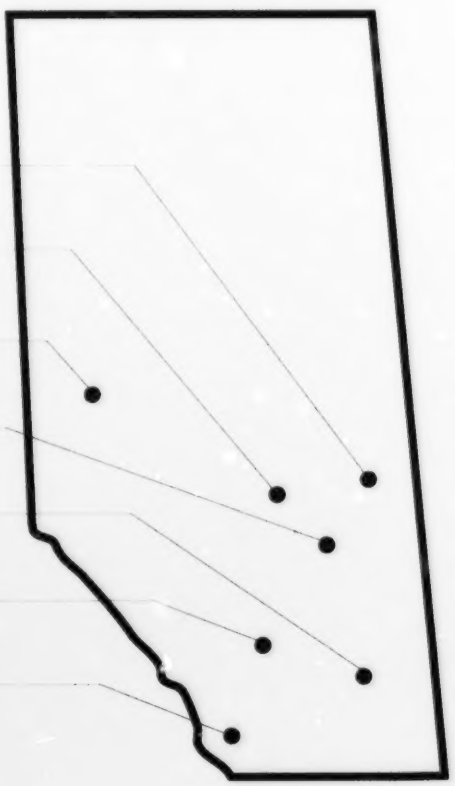
Patricia Flette
GRANDE PRAIRIE

Sheilagh Ross
CAMROSE

Wanda White
BROOKS

Sue Dutton
CALGARY

Marjorie Haugen
COWLEY



"Members of the Alberta Library Board are appointed from all parts of Alberta."

"Retiring Board member and vice-chairperson, Ed Halina of Olds."

Ed Halina of Olds retired from the Board when his term expired after he had served four years.

"Board member and former Chairperson Patricia Flette of Grande Prairie."

Chairperson Patricia Flette of Grande Prairie also left the Board this year. She was still in her second term, having served 3 1/2 years, but a change of residence to outside the province made it necessary to leave the Board.

"Newly appointed Board member Sheilagh Ross of Camrose."

Sheilagh Ross of Camrose was appointed to the Board to replace Ed Halina, and the other position is currently vacant.

Volunteers are everywhere in Alberta's Public Libraries

In this annual report for 1988/89, the Alberta Library Board salutes the many volunteers who contribute time and service to public libraries in Alberta. Whether serving as library board members, service volunteers, or committee members working toward system establishment, Alberta's library volunteers are a resource we can be proud of - and we are! Hats off to our library volunteers whose work has resulted in expanded and better service for library users throughout Alberta.

Thank Heaven for Volunteers

Volunteers are like yachts. No matter where they are, they arouse your curiousity. Who are they? Where do they come from? Why are they here?

They could stay moored where it's safe and still justify their being, but they choose to cut through the rough waters, ride out the storms, and take chances.

"Tofield. Booktime volunteer Bill Sears."

Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of this earth who reflect the nation's compassion, unselfishness, caring, patience, need, and just plain loving one another. Their very presence transcends politics, religion, ethnic background, marital status, sexism, even smokers vs. non-smokers.

They have style. They're fiercely independent. If you have to ask how much they cost, you can't afford them.

Erma Bombeck

Library Development

Native Library Service

One segment of Alberta's population without adequate access to library services is the Native people. Three different groups are included in Alberta's Native population: Metis, Indians not living on reserves, and Indians living on reserves.

The Metis, who are located in eight communities in north central Alberta, are a provincial responsibility. The passage of the pending provincial Metis Settlement Act will grant the Metis title to these eight settlements or communities. Passage of this Act and the consequential amendments to other provincial legislation, including the Libraries Act, will enable the eight Metis settlements in Alberta to follow rules like other municipalities, pass by-laws, and share financial responsibilities including the establishment of public libraries.

Metis not living in settlement areas and Indians not living on reserves have the same access to library services available in their community as any other Alberta citizen.

Indians living on reserves are the Federal Government's responsibility under the Indian Act. Alberta's Libraries Act makes no provision for service to Native people living on reserves in Alberta. However, the province's Native people have indicated

"Libraries are not made; they grow."

Augustine Birrell, Obiter Dicta

their desire for self-government; certain bands in Alberta are in the process of negotiating with the Federal Government to achieve this goal. If this does happen, the provincial government could someday be in a position to negotiate an arrangement for library services to Natives on reserves.

The issue is complicated and requires careful consideration, so the Alberta Library Board has formed a committee to examine the Board's options in studying this issue.

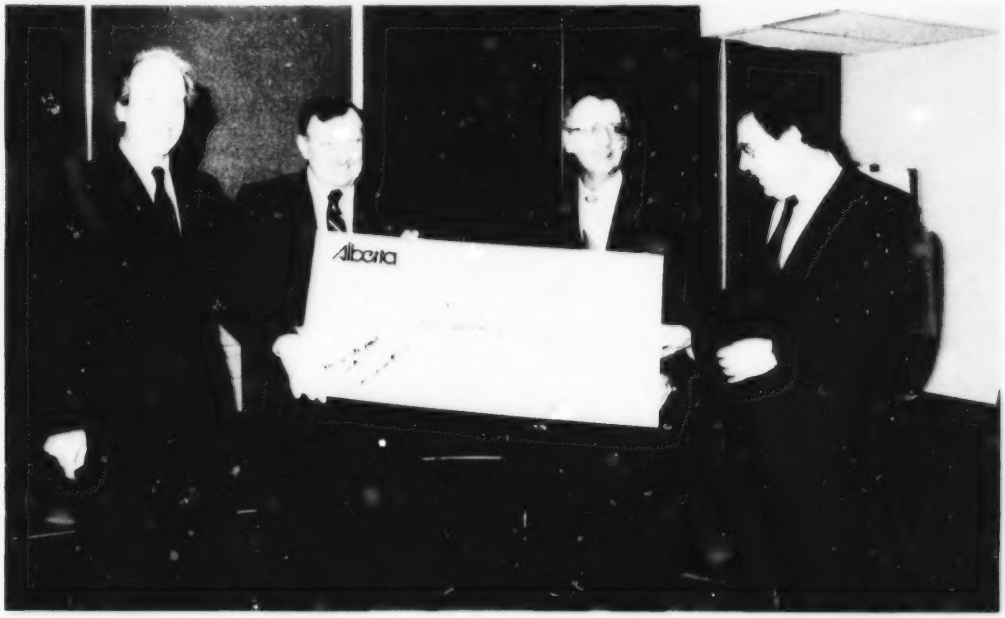
Systems Development

Library systems grow too, and almost all stages of growth were evident again this year. From the establishment of an interest group in the Southwest to the expansion of existing systems, growth is due largely to the work of volunteer library boards, steering committees, and interest groups. Most people involved in the emerging areas of the provincial library scene can easily see the applicability of the biblical saying, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few." (Matthew 9:37)

Although no new systems were established this year, some significant events did occur. For the five established systems, the work of the volunteer boards and system staff literally paid off in millions.

Capital Grants

In the spring, the Minister announced $7.25 million in capital grants from Lotteries funds for renovating or building new library system headquarters. In December 1988, the Honourable Greg Stevens and the Honourable Ken Kowalski presented the first grant cheque to the Yellowhead Regional Library. From January to March 1989, cheques were also presented to Marigold, Parkland, Shortgrass and the Peace Library Systems.



"Greg Stevens, Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism, Jim Heron, M.L.A., Stony Plain, Alvin Gross, Chairman, Yellowhead Regional Library Board, Ken Kowalski, Minister responsible for Lotteries."

The awarding of the capital grants was most welcome as all systems needed either new or expanded headquarters, and the building committees in each system have been working long and hard to develop the best plans for their needs. Yellowhead is building a new facility in Spruce Grove; Parkland is adding a 15,000 square foot addition to renovate their building in Lacombe; Marigold is renovating and expanding on their current site in Strathmore; and Shortgrass will build on newly purchased land in Medicine Hat. Peace is still investigating various options in Grande Prairie.

Established System Growth

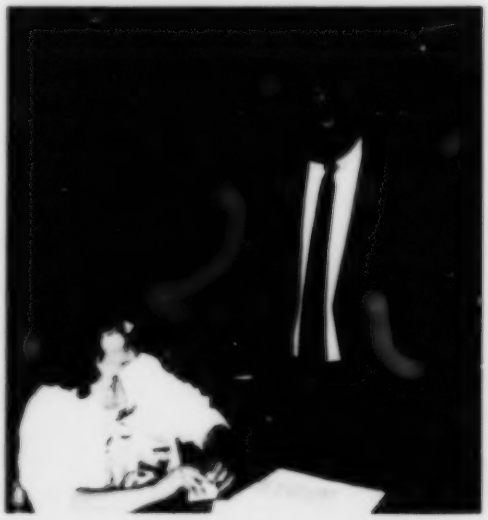
The established systems continued to expand in area and population as well. Clyde, Westlock and Westlock Municipal District joined Yellowhead, and the newly created Municipal District of Brazeau joined Yellowhead. The Summer Village of Waiparous and the town of Banff joined Marigold. These additions give more than 20,000 additional people access to the services of regional libraries for a total of 489,698 Albertans now served by library systems. This is 42.7% of the population outside of Calgary and Edmonton.

Looking back over the last ten years, the growth in library systems has been considerable. In 1978, the two systems existing then, Parkland and Yellowhead, served 175,229 people, which was only 18.5% of the population outside Calgary and Edmonton. The collections held by system members have also grown considerably - from less than half a million books in 1978 to well over two million books today. The two library systems existing ten years ago represented 54 public libraries, while today the five existing systems represent 132 public libraries. In addition, the province's promotion of systems has been reflected in the percentage of provincial grant money given to system libraries. Excluding Edmonton and Calgary, the grants to systems and their members have been increased from 18% of funds distributed in 1978 to 62.6% in 1987.

Interest in New System Grows

In the Northeast Project area, the dedicated work of the volunteer steering committee continued, assisted by an $80,000 grant from Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism and by the work of the project director and project officer. Many visits were made to libraries in the Northeast to discuss regional development and to assist library boards in preparing for presentations of the system proposal to municipal councils. As of December 1988, fifteen library boards had committed, and one town council had ratified the commitment to the system.

In addition, $29,108 was awarded to Area 9, Fort McMurray, to fund a feasibility study on system establishment in that area, and a volunteer interest group was formed in the Southwest.



"Bob Maskell, Alberta Library Board, holds a discussion with Maureen Hall, Chairperson of the Northeast Library Project."

We cannot spell
VOL NTEER
without U
We cannot spell
COMM NITY
without U
We cannot spell
COMM NICATION
without U
We cannot spell
S CCESS
without U

From Perspectus,
Junior League of Buffalo

Who is Where

The newest library system, Shortgrass, completed staffing with the hiring of Colleen Swift as System Director and Bob Batchelder as Technical Services Co-ordinator.

In Parkland, Bill Bale retired after many years of service as director of the oldest library system in the province. Karen Harrison came from Ontario to replace him, bringing her own brand of enthusiasm and expertise to the system. Mary Lou Rose followed Sandra Weidner as chair of the system board.

In Marigold, Pat Cavill, the system's first director, left to take on new challenges in Calgary and was succeeded by Rowena Lunn.

Other Library Activities

New Boards

A new community library board was formed in Tangent and two new municipal library boards were formed in Wainwright and Brazeau Municipal Districts.

More Volunteers at Work

Volunteers and system staff were busy in other areas too. The number of committees and the amount of work seemed to double this year. While the building committees were involved with system headquarters, the needs assessment and planning committees began the process of doing for systems what they had already done for their own libraries - completing needs assessments, defining goals and objectives, and developing plans of service. These committees and this work will continue over the next year.

"Members of Marigold Library System's Standards and Services Committee and the Needs Assessment Committee at their joint meeting in Drumheller."

New Buildings

Whether it's a new building, an expansion, or a renovation, planning a library facility is a lengthy process. Board members volunteer many precious hours to develop a library building program, raise funds, and work with an architect. Their time is rewarded many months, or even years later, on grand opening day.

A new or renovated library stands for many years as a living monument to the work of the library building committee and is something of which the community can be very proud.

During 1988, 15 library boards completed new facilities or major renovations. Many library boards also started the planning process for a new facility.

Library Openings

The Alberta Library Board sent congratulations to those library boards announcing library openings in their communities during the past year. Calgary Public Library opened the Nose Hill Branch library, and Edmonton Public Library announced the reopening of the Jasper Place Branch library following major renovations. Donalda and Grande Prairie had official library openings, and the Peace Library System's headquarters was officially opened in Grande Prairie.

"Patrons relax after the official opening of the Donalda Public Library on November 5, 1988."

Needs Assessments

Many board volunteers in many libraries spent considerable time and effort this year in completing their community's needs assessments as required under the Libraries Act and Regulation. The Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism had agreed with an Alberta Library Board recommendation and extended the needs assessment deadline to November 30, 1988. By the end of March 1989, 202 of 237 libraries (85%) had submitted their needs assessment reports to the Library Services Branch.

Library Services Branch staff completed a report describing data gleaned from the needs assessment reports submitted. Several areas of interest have emerged, particularly concerns for better library awareness in the community and for better library management.

Following are some comments received from libraries as the boards reached the end of this process:

from a letter from Spirit River Municipal Library Board referring to the needs process *" . . . it was a long and arduous task and, though completed several months past the deadline set by Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism, we feel the result is well worth the wait."*

from Hussar Municipal Library's introduction *" . . . we undertook the needs assessment process with the same amount of trepidation as most other library boards throughout the province."*

from High River Centennial Library *" . . . the High River Board and staff have recognized the importance of using needs assessment as part of our on-going planning cycle."*

from Hanna Library *" . . . we learned a lot from doing this. In the future we will make sure our library services are more visible."*

from Vilna Public Library on doing a telephone survey as part of the process *" . . . it was found that it was very awkward and time consuming because of the language barrier."*

from Three Hills Library on the group discussion method *" . . . after learning of their success as a public relations and information tool we would like to conduct three to five of these in 1988."*

from Leduc Public Library *" . . . the process proved to be more complex than anticipated and involved a greater investment of time from the board and staff than was initially planned."*

from Grand Centre *" . . . at last! We did it! It was a great experience and we learned a lot."*

Canmore on the survey method *" . . . the needs assessment has produced a detailed description of Canmore's library use and needs."*

from Drumheller's needs assessment *" . . . from the first stages of "Let's do a library survey" through calculation to determine degrees of confidence of the findings of what Drumheller residents feel about their library the process has been challenging and educational. None of us realized the complexity of the project and the time that would be requested of us in participating in a very worthwhile process."*

Liaison with other groups in the Library Community

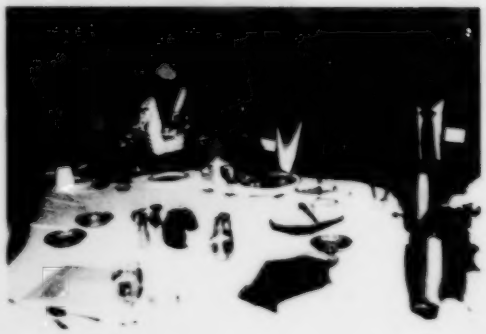
Throughout the year, the Alberta Library Board continued to meet with various groups in the library community.

At the Alberta Library Conference in April 1988, Board Chair, Pat Flette, and Vice-chair, Bob Maskell, met with the executives of the Alberta Library Trustees' Association, the Library Association of Alberta, and the Learning Resources Council to discuss many matters of common interest. A second joint meeting later in the year was held with representatives of these organizations to continue the informative discussions.

Executives of the organizations involved feel these meetings are useful in keeping each group informed about concerns, issues, and current activities, and goals of the other groups in the library community. Agenda items this year included such topics as the importance of volunteer recognition, copyright legislation, the on-going issue of funding at all levels, a Libraries Futures conference, and trustee education.

In September 1988, the Alberta Library Board held its regular meeting in Lloydminster. While in the community, the Board met with representatives from the Lloydminster Library Board and from the Steering Committee of the Northeast Library Project. Funding for the proposed Northeast System was a prime topic. The Board also received much information about volunteerism in grassroots efforts towards system establishment and about continuing education needs for library trustees.

The Alberta Library Board met in Calgary for their regular monthly meeting and while there also met with the Calgary Library Board and the Marigold Library System Executive. Members of the Calgary Library Board spoke about the concerns of a large city library and resource centre. User fees, volunteer recognition, and resource sharing were among the discussion topics. When



"Members of the Alberta Library Board and representatives from the Library Services Branch meet with the Lloydminster Public Library Board."

the Marigold Library System executive members met with the Alberta Library Board, funding, volunteerism and resource sharing were again of major concern.

The Alberta Library Board appreciates the efforts made by all these library volunteers to meet with and inform the Board. The Board's scope of knowledge has been broadened by liaison with groups such as these, and we look forward to further such meetings in the coming year.

Public Libraries Futures Conference

In October 1983, 64 people representing the various kinds of libraries in Alberta's library community took part in Libraries 2000, a symposium sponsored by the Alberta Library Board. This seminar was held to re-examine the function and future development of libraries in Alberta.

Planning is now underway for the next library futures conference, scheduled for October 1990. The Alberta Library Board is again sponsoring the event and has formed a planning committee for this Public Libraries Futures Conference. The planning committee is chaired by Sue Dutton, Alberta Library Board, and has representation from the Library Association of Alberta, Jeannette Fish; the Alberta Public Library Directors' Council, Vince Richards and John Dutton; Library Services Branch, Joe Forsyth; and the Alberta Library Trustees' Association, Wilma Birchill.

The working title of the conference is "The Public Library - Cornerstone of a Democratic Society?" and the focus will be on public libraries' purpose and role in Alberta's society of the future. One conference goal will be to examine the core concepts upon which the provision of public library service is based and to identify those concepts which will be still valid and applicable in the future.

Trustee Development

In their travels to various parts of the province in recent years, Alberta Library Board members repeatedly have heard trustees express the need for more help in carrying out their tasks and responsibilities as library board members. Therefore, the Board has convened a provincial ad hoc committee on trustee development to discuss trustee development needs and issues.

The committee consists of Sue Dutton, Alberta Library Board, as chair; Bonnie Gray, Library Services Branch; Bob Lightfoot, Alberta Library Trustees' Association; Audrey Mark, Library Association of Alberta; and Iris English, non-affiliated trustee representative.

This committee began meeting in February 1989 and has established its purpose as:

> *"To determine whether or not trustees are comfortable with the information and help they have to do a good job as a library trustee and, if more help is required, to find methods to give people an easily assimilated way of getting information to do this work, and to establish who has the responsibility for implementation of these methods."*

In the spring of 1989, a questionnaire will be administered to a representative group of trustees by mail and at the Alberta Library Conference. This is the first step in assessing the need for further trustee training programs in the province.

"The greatest need of every human being is the need for appreciation."

William James, psychologist

Volunteer Recognition

In 1988, the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism requested that the Alberta Library Board research and prepare recommendations for his consideration regarding volunteer recognition within the Alberta library community.

The Alberta Library Board struck a committee to begin the research with the specific task of recommending "customized" suggestions for library volunteers. To gain input, the committee sent an initial request for suggestions to Alberta library associations and systems. The response was exceptional! Both the interest in this special recognition as well as the variety of suggestions resulted in the committee extending the period of research beyond the initial time lines.

The Board expects to receive the final draft by June 30, 1989 and will then present their recommendations to the Minister.

Resource Sharing

In 1988, interlibrary loans increased throughout the province by 12%. During the year:

- 26,565 requests were processed by the Library Services Branch,
- 15,743 items were loaned by resource libraries in response to Zenith telephone information questions, and
- 33,241 items were loaned by library systems to their members.

Almost 52% of the requests handled by the Library Services Branch were filled by public libraries. Dependence on the library collections of the Universities of Alberta and Calgary continued to decline, dropping by 3% in 1988. Alberta public libraries filled an impressive 83% of the total 75,549 interlibrary loan requests.

The number of Zenith telephone information questions decreased by 5% from 7,750 (1987) to 7,327 (1988). The availability of microfiche catalogues of library system holdings has enabled member libraries to independently fill subject requests, reducing their dependence on system headquarters.

During the year, five resource sharing special project grants were approved. The grants were: Marigold - $15,344 to begin entry of Banff's catalogue records into the Marigold database; Parkland - $15,000 to update its headquarters' reference collection; Yellowhead - $31,000 for collection development and clean-up of their database; Shortgrass - $12,500 for continuation of the Medicine Hat conversion project; and County of Strathcona/St. Albert - $14,500 for collection development.

Resource libraries surveyed their client libraries (as identified in *Networking in Alberta: Levels of Service Expectations*) to assist the Library Services Branch in assessing how well the guidelines in the document had been met. In addition, the survey was used to identify the degree of satisfaction with resource sharing services.

The results reveal that 77% of the responding libraries are meeting the guidelines for information services. 83% of their interlibrary loan requests were filled within three weeks, and 89% of the libraries expressed satisfaction with the turnaround time. In addition, 96% of the Zenith questions were answered within two weeks, and 93% of the libraries indicated satisfaction with the response time. These results are very encouraging and reflect well on the Resource Sharing network, which helps libraries provide better service to their patrons.

A study to evaluate options for delivery of system resource sharing services was undertaken. This was done to assist the Northeast Library Project Steering Committee in its task of selecting a resource library for the system when it is established.

The results of this evaluation were presented to the project's Steering Committee, which unanimously agreed to name Lloydminster Public Library as its future resource centre. The study findings indicated that Lloydminster is the strongest library in Area 8 at this time. The study also revealed that the resources of the libraries evaluated form a strong base for sharing materials in the Northeast.

"Keep the library interested in promoting the patrons to keep the patrons interested in promoting the library."

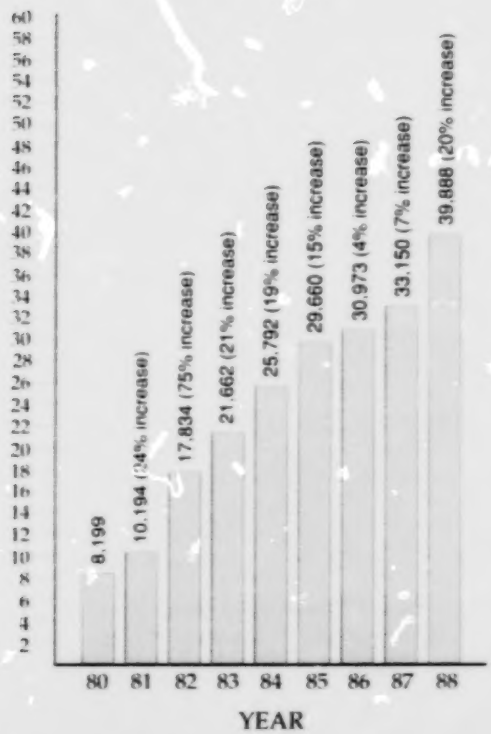
Maria Hayley

Direct Services

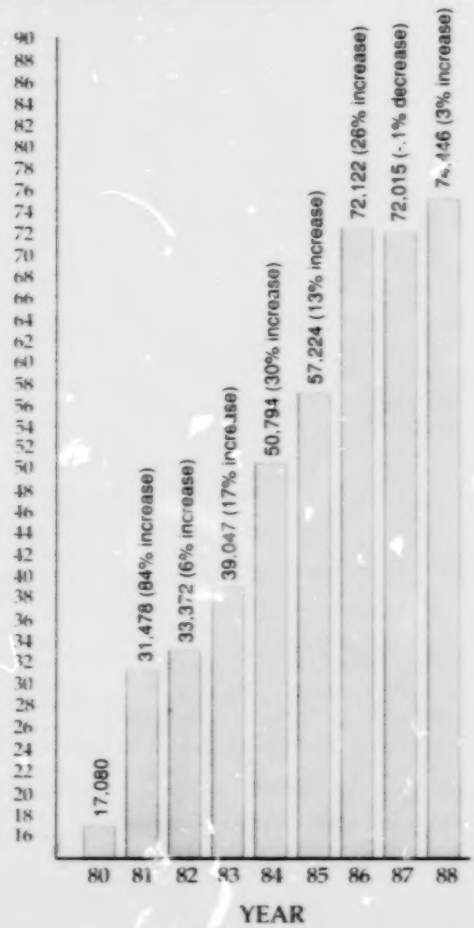
Multilingual Biblioservice: In 1988, 39,888 volumes were loaned to 166 Alberta libraries, a 20% increase in circulation over 1987. The loan of French language books increased by 50% during the same period. The next six most popular languages were German, Dutch, Chinese, Vietnamese, Spanish and Polish. As of December 31, 1988, the multilingual collection consisted of 58,565 volumes in 30 languages. A manual to assist libraries in using the Multilingual Biblioservice was revised and distributed.

Talking Book Service for the Handicapped: The Library Services Branch loaned 11,588 talking books to 159 libraries during 1988. Public libraries reported a circulation of 74,446 volumes to their patrons, a 3% increase over 1987. 704 new titles were added to the collection during the year. The majority of these were received from the Marigold Library System for distribution throughout the province.

Circulation of Multilingual Books To Alberta Public Libraries 1980 - 1988 (In Thousands)



Circulation of Talking Books In Alberta Public Libraries 1980 - 1988 (In Thousands)



Conference Attendance and Workshops

In April 1988, the Alberta Library Board was again an active participant at the Alberta Library Conference, presenting Potpourri '88 to showcase innovative library projects. Librarians and trustees came together as exhibitors and attenders of the many excellent presentations.

The session maintained its mini-conference format with 12 sessions running concurrently. Each speaker gave a 15 minute round table presentation to as many as 20 participants; each presentation was repeated four times. This showcase of innovative programs came from libraries across the province including Brooks, Cardston, Tofield, Olds, Slave Lake, Two Hills, Medicine Hat, Lacombe, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, Calgary, Peace River, and Canrose.

"Potpourri presenters at the 1988 Alberta Library Conference."

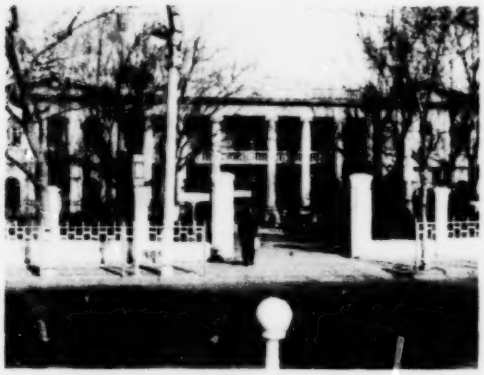
Alberta Library Board members also attended many sessions offered by the 1988 Alberta Library Conference in Jasper. The theme of this conference, "Meeting the Challenge - Libraries for the 90's", introduced challenges of providing the next decade of library service to Albertans. Budget cuts are a reality that libraries must live with; one challenge becomes to do more with less. New technologies offer innovative ideas and ways of providing library service. Expansion of computer use in the 90's must be achieved responsibly responding to the needs of libraries and users.

The Canadian Library Association 1988 Annual Conference in Halifax was attended by two Alberta Library Board members. The Conference theme was "Library Information in the Market Place", and a variety of sessions and network activities was attended by the Board's representatives. During this conference Acting Director, Barbara Clubb, of the Library Services Branch, was elected Vice-chair, Chairperson elect, of the Provincial and Territorial Library Directors Council (PTLDC).

Two Alberta Library Board members attended the 1988 American Library Association Conference in New Orleans. The theme of this conference was a weighty one - "Visionary Leaders for 2020: Developing Leadership in Human Resources for Library and Information Science". Throughout the extremely varied sessions and displays, the focus was on the development of human resources as tools in the development of library products and services.

In November, Alberta Library Board Chairman, Bob Maskell, representing the Edmonton-Harbin Friendship Society, travelled to Harbin, China, with a City of Edmonton delegation. While in Harbin, he met with Municipal Library officials. Discussions included the possible exchange of Chinese and English language books.

"Alberta Library Board Chairman, Bob Maskell, with Harbin Municipal Library officials."



"The original Harbin Municipal Library building has been damaged for years resulting in partial closure of the building."

"The new building of the Harbin Municipal Library is under construction."

Awards

Alberta Library Bursary

Twenty-one applications were received this year for the $4,000 Alberta Library Bursary offered to Alberta library science students. The successful applicant was Elizabeth Jane Watson of Edmonton. Ms. Watson received a Bachelor of Education degree in 1987 and is currently enrolled in the final year of the Master of Library Science program at the University of Alberta.

Ms. Watson began on the path to an M.L.S. at the age of thirteen when she worked as a page at the Red Deer Public Library. Upon completion of her degree, Elizabeth hopes to work in a public library in the province. The Alberta Library Board wishes her success in her library career.

Creative Librarianship Award

The Creative Librarianship Award, established in 1986, is sponsored by the Alberta Library Board and is awarded by the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism.

The purpose of the award is to identify, promote, and facilitate the sharing of creative or innovative approaches to the provision of public library service in Alberta. The award is designed to build pride and give recognition to public library boards and staff.

The recipient of the 1988 award was Yvonne Slemko of the Barrhead Public Library in the Yellowhead Library System. Yvonne's program was exemplary in its innovativeness and impact on the community of Barrhead.

The "Reading Week" Program involved over 100 community volunteers who participated in readings to children in their school classrooms during Reading Week. A community reader was featured in each class each day for the entire week. Community volunteer readers included carpenters, council members, school bus drivers, and business and professional representatives.

The Reading Week program was an innovative twist to authors' readings and is also applicable to all libraries in Alberta regardless of size. The program was exceptionally low in budget requirements, showing vision and creativity.

The second program "Books for Babes" involved presenting a book to new Barrhead residents (babies) through the local health unit. The concept was to introduce new moms and babes to reading as part of their everyday activities.

The Alberta Library Board continues to be impressed with the dynamic approaches Alberta libraries develop in providing exceptional service to their patrons and congratulates Yvonne Slemko on winning the 1988 Creative Librarianship Award.

Anniversary Plaques

The Board congratulates those libraries that this year reached the milestone of having provided library service to their communities for 50 years or more. Anniversary plaques were given this year to Killam for 50 years service; Magrath for 50 years service; and Wetaskiwin for 60 years of library service.

Other anniversaries celebrated in the province were 10 years of library service in Beaumont, 20 years in Pincher Creek and 25 years in Manning.

"Alberta Library Board member Sheilagh Ross presents 60 year anniversary plaque to Wetaskiwin Library Board."

School/Public Library Co-operation

In April 1987, the Alberta Library Board submitted its report on recommended action to foster co-operation between schools and public libraries to the Minister of Culture and Multiculturalism, and the Minister of Education. In December of that same year, the report was referred to the Interdepartmental Liaison Group on Library Development (ILGOLD) for review and detailed recommendations on implementation of the suggestions in the report by the provincial government departments concerned with library development.

The two Ministers replied to the Board during 1988, and the Board was encouraged by the positive response and acceptance of the majority of the recommendations.

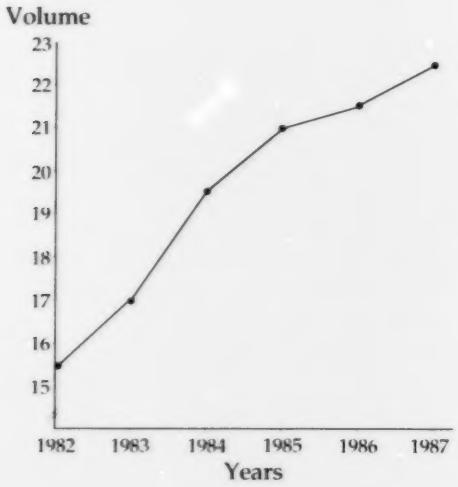
The acceptance of the proposal to undertake a feasibility study of production of a provincial data base utilizing compact disc technology has considerable potential for addressing both the issue of cooperative cataloguing support and increased access to resources. The Board is also pleased that an interdepartmental study of telecommunication needs of libraries has been contracted and looks forward to the results of the study in 1989.

The Board is also very pleased that Alberta Education has implemented its recommendation that consultative services for school libraries be strengthened. This is a positive step towards addressing an important issue. The Board has accepted the Ministers'

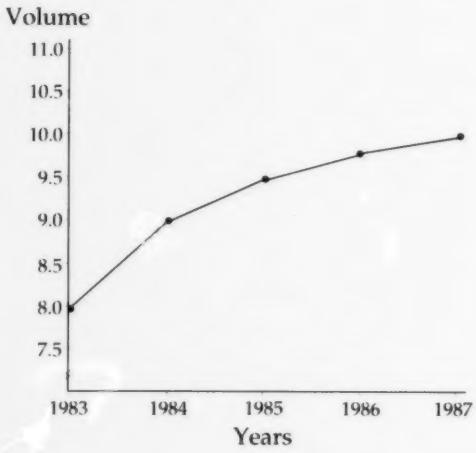
suggestions that there be more awareness building between provincial associations involved in library services. The Board will continue to seek opportunities to engage these bodies in dialogue both individually and collectively.

The Board is particularly pleased that the response paper confirmed its belief that "school libraries benefit significantly from cooperative participation in regional library systems". We look forward to the joint statement of support for this position from the two Ministries. The Board is disappointed, however, that it was not possible to accept the recommendation that Alberta Education be directly involved in providing financial support to library systems. The funding currently available to library systems through local appropriations and provincial grants is not sufficient to accommodate the special needs of the educational community. The Board is pleased that further discussions on this topic will be taking place in the coming year, because we believe that such participation by Alberta Education is both appropriate and necessary to achieve quality library services to students and educators on a province wide bases. In summary, the government response to our recommendations reconfirm our belief that cooperation between school and public libraries is vital to the continued success of each, and that an interdepartmental approach to such cooperation will enhance library service.

Total Public Library Circulation in Alberta



Public Library Circulation Per Capita in Alberta



Volunteers are Grrreeeeaaat . . .

Total public library circulation has increased steadily over the years; more than ten library items for every person in Alberta now are checked out of the province's public libraries each year. Library use is on the rise; staff and volunteers have been, and will continue to be, busy in bringing library services to their patrons.

In this annual report, the Alberta Library Board salutes the many hard working volunteers who enhance the scope and quality of Alberta's public library services. Library patrons may know the names and faces of some of these essential people, but many times volunteers are working behind the scenes, their only reward the satisfaction of a job well done. Whether service volunteer, board or committee member, the job couldn't be done as well, or at all, without you. We thank you.

What are Volunteers?

Volunteers are like Ford . . .
they have better ideas.
Volunteers are like Coke . . .
they're the real thing.
Volunteers are like Pan Am . . .
they make the going great.
Volunteers are like Pepsi . . .
they've got a lot to give.
Volunteers are like Dial soap . . .
they care more, don't you wish everybody did?
Volunteers are like VO5 hairspray . . .
their goodness holds in all kinds of weather.
Volunteers are like Hallmark cards . . .
they care enough to give the very best.
Volunteers are like Standard Oil . . .
you expect more and get it.
Volunteers are like Frosted Flakes . . .
they're grrrreeeeaaat!!!!

"Liz Hubbard, Tofield Librarian entertains at the keyboard during the Children's Book Festival."